

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 21 are independent. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 11, and 21.

Attorney Docket Number

Applicant requests that the Attorney Docket No. for this matter be changed from “0007056-0196/P5939” as indicated on the cover sheet received with this office action to “16159/091001; P5939.”

Oath and Declaration

A substitute oath and declaration satisfying the requirements cited by the Examiner has been filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office for the referenced application. A copy of the substitute oath and declaration (and associated papers) as filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office is included for your review. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of “Visual C++” by Ivor Horton (hereafter “Horton”). Independent claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended to include the limitation: “wherein the extend structure is included in the source code.” Support for this

amendment may be found, for example, on pages 6, and 8-10 of the Instant Specification. The Applicant respectfully asserts that no new matter has been added by way of these amendments. To the extent that the rejection still applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.

As discussed above, the independent claims 1, 11, and 21 have been amended to include the limitation “wherein the extend structure is included in the source code.” The Applicant respectfully asserts that the aforementioned limitation is not disclosed in Horton. In particular, the Examiner has attempted to equate the extend structure recited in the claims with the concept of Dynamically-Linked Libraries (DLLs) recited in Horton. The Applicant respectfully asserts that this attempt to equate these concepts is incorrect. Specifically, Horton defines DLLs as portions of code that are referenced by the application, but which are loaded at runtime (*See Horton, p.717*). Horton also notes that DLLs support both early binding (*i.e.*, binding once the DLL and program referencing the DLL are loaded in to memory) and late-binding (*i.e.*, binding after the program referencing the DLL is already executing) (*See Horton, p.718*). Regardless of the implementation, the program using DLLs only include references to the DLLs as opposed to including the *entire* extend structure in the source code.

Further, DLLs do not *extend* program elements as asserted by the Examiner. Rather, DLLs provide an implementation of the program element which is accessed by a reference in the program. Thus, if the DLL is modified, then *all* references to the DLL may also need to be modified to ensure that the programs that are referencing the DLL still operate correctly. For example, if a DLL requiring two parameters is modified to use only one parameter, then the

reference to the DLL in the program may need to be modified to handle the modified DLL. In contrast, the extend structure *extends* the functionality of the program element while not modifying the original program element. Thus, if additional functionality for a particular program element is required, then a user may employ the extend structure without modifying the original program element. This allows the user to be confident that the additional functionality added to the particular implementation of the program element (*e.g.*, a class) will not effect other implementations of the same program element in other programs.

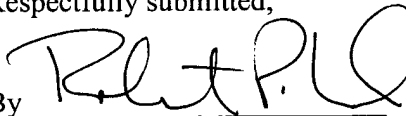
In view of the above, Horton does not support the rejection with respect to any of independent or dependent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/091001; P5939).

Dated: December 6, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachments